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THE NEW 52!

I, VAMPIRE™

"IF YOU'RE NOT READING I, VAMPIRE, THEN MAKE THIS THE NEXT COMIC YOU SINK YOUR TEETH INTO."
— IGN

VOLUME 2
RISE OF THE VAMPIRES

JOSHUA HALE **FIALKOV** ANDREA **SORRENTINO**

I, VAMPIRE

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I, VAMPIRE VOLUME 2: RISE OF THE VAMPIRES

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SOOK

RED BLOOD, DARK MAGIC

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DANIEL SAMPERE pgs. 9-20
artists

cover art by RYAN SOOK

I CAN SEE IT. THE VAMPIRE NAMED ***ANDREW BENNETT*** IS DEAD. AND NOW SOMETHING... ***EVIL*** HAS AWOKEN...

BENNETT PROBABLY ***DESERVED*** IT. I MET HIM ONCE...STUCK-UP SOD THOUGHT HE WAS THE ONLY "GOOD" VAMPIRE.

THIS IS HOW IT ***ENDS...***

NOT FOR ME IT DOESN'T, XANADU. IF YOU WANT TO GO AND WRESTLE VAMPIRES, YOU CAN DO IT WITHOUT ***JOHN CONSTANTINE.***

YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS IS NECESSARY, MAGE.

ZATANNA.

POTS MIH!

AGH!

Ugh.

I WANT IT ON RECORD THAT I THINK THIS WHOLE VAMPIRE CHASE IS DOOMED FROM THE START.

CAN I GET A DRINK NOW, PLEASE?

GOTHAM CITY.

MY NAME IS **MADAME XANADU.** I HAVE DRAWN TOGETHER THIS TEAM OF DAMAGED, DISTRESSED CHARACTERS. MAINLY BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL TOO DANGEROUS TO BE LEFT ON THEIR OWN...

RED BLOOD, DARK MAGIC

WITHIN MOMENTS OF MY VISION, WE ARE IN **GOTHAM.** COURTESY OF THE REMARKABLE M-VEST OF THE STRANGE ALIEN KNOWN AS **SHADE** THE **CHANGING MAN**...

SHADE? THIS IS ***NOT*** THE PLACE I SAW IN MY VISION.

S-SOMETHING STOPPED ME GETTING CLOSER. POWERFUL, DARK, INTERFERING WITH MY M-VEST...

ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT HIGH-PITCHED SCREECHING?

WHAT AN ***ABSOLUTE*** TOILET.

REMINDS ME OF MANCHESTER.

AND IT JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER.

SHADE?

I...I APPEAR TO BE SUFFERING FROM...FROM SOME KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS. MY M-VEST ISN'T...RESPONDING AS IT SHOULD.

"VAMPIRES.

"THEY *EXIST*..."

...I MEAN, I KN-KNEW THEY EXISTED AS A CULTURAL PHENOMENON ON EARTH. BRAM STOKER. TWILIGHT. BUT--

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, SHADE. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP.

FOR ONCE, I AGREE WITH THE ENGLISHMAN.

I'LL TRY. I...

WHERE DID THEY GO?

"I...I THINK IT WORKED. THE M-VEST ALLOWED US TO JUMP AGAIN..."

CONGRATULATIONS. NOW WHERE THE HELL ARE WE, YOU BLOODY LUNATIC?

I...I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE. GIVE ME A MINUTE... TO...TO...

...TO GET MY HEAD TOGETHER...

AH-*HEM*.

IF WE GET THROUGH THIS, I INSIST YOU SEE A PSYCHIATRIST.

THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE WON'T MAKE IT...

I *DID* SUGGEST WE TAKE THE WEST ROUTE. BUT DO YOU EVER LISTEN TO ME?

LAURA, THE CITY'S BEING OVERRUN BY *LUNATICS*. MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL A TRUCE, HUH?

AIGHHHH!

OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD!

AIGHHHHH!

NNFF!

THAK

YOU'RE FAST-- AND UGLY--

THWK

BUT YOU'RE REALLY NOT THAT SMART.

KRNCH

UGHH!

DAMN.

ALWAYS BITING OFF MORE THAN I CAN...

...CHEW!

UGHNN!

AAAH! THIS HURTS!

WHOA.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?

MUST HAVE BEEN THAT GARLIC BREAD I HAD LAST NIGHT.

SOMETHING'S *WRONG.*

THAT WEIRD BURST OF FORCE WHEN I JUMPED INSIDE HIM...THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE. FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS PUSHING ME *OUT.*

AND IT WAS SO DAMN *COLD* IN THERE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MOANING ABOUT, DEADMAN. I MEAN...

YOU'RE BOTH *DEAD.*

HRRAAAGAGHHH!

THERE ARE PROBABLY A NUMBER OF WAYS TO KILL YOUR AVERAGE VAMPIRE.

BUT THIS IS THE MOST *FUN.*

SHLOK

UGGKK

YOU'RE ZATANNA'S TEAM, RIGHT? I'M ***BATGIRL.***

BATMAN ***WARNED*** ME ABOUT YOU.

HE SAID YOU GUYS WERE A ***MESS***-- BUT YOU DO SEEM TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST...

ZATANNA'S TEAM. OH, THAT'S FUNNY.

THIS BATMAN CHARACTER MUST BE A BIT OF A ***JOKER.***

A MESS? WELL, HE GOT ***THAT*** RIGHT.

DO YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING GROWING OUT OF YOUR HEAD?

NO, BUT SING IT AND I'LL WHISTLE ALONG.

SORRY.

A-AS YOU CAN SEE, I... I'M STILL FINDING IT QUITE HARD TO...TO CONTROL MY VEST.

ZATANNA...

GOT IT.

THESE ARE THE SPELLS I WAS TAUGHT BY MY DEAR FATHER...

BACKWARDS ENCHANTMENT... TO IMPOSE MY WILL ON REALITY...

UOY SERIPMAV. SEY, UOY OWT! EB ENOG!

UGhhh...

RRAAAGH!

EB ENOG! EB ENOG!

WHAT'S WRONG, ZATANNA?

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR MAGIC?

DUM DEE DUM DEE DUM...

AAAARGH!

IT'S *BAD* OUT HERE... AND YOU GUYS AREN'T FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF TOWN WHILE YOU CAN.

I HAD A VISION. WE'VE COME TO HELP.

AND YOU *HAVE* HELPED.

BUT BATMAN'S ORDERING ME TO THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.

SO *GOOD LUCK*...WE'RE ALL ON OUR OWN NOW.

JOHN? IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?

I DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO THIS VAMPIRE-INFESTED DUMP.

IF YOU WON'T LET ME *LEAVE* YOU...THEN *I'M* GOING TO STAY PROTECTED INSIDE THIS MAGIC CIRCLE WHILE THE VAMPIRES COME AND KILL YOU.

AND THEN I'LL BE FREE OF THE WHOLE LOT OF--

--huh?

IT'S *DISSOLVING!* ARE YOU MAKING THIS HAPPEN? YOU BLOODY *WITCH!*

IT WOULD TAKE SOMEONE FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN I AM...TO DO SUCH A THING.

AND I BELIEVE I SAW SUCH A ONE, IN MY VISION.

YOU SEE, THIS IS HOW IT ENDS...

A FEW BLOCKS AWAY.

"...THIS IS REALLY HOW IT ENDS."

AM COURTHOUSE

MY CHILDREN.

I HAVE LIVED THROUGH MANY AGES. AND I HAVE SLUMBERED FOR TOO MANY CENTURIES. BUT NOW...NOW THE SLEEPER IS AWOKEN.

WITH BENNETT'S DEATH, THE POWER THAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS CAN RETURN TO US. THE MAGIC OF THIS WORLD IS OURS TO CLAIM.

CAN YOU FEEL IT, MY CHILDREN?

WE GROW ***STRONGER*** BY THE MOMENT!

ON A ROOFTOP ABOVE.

DAMN IT, TROUGHTON, WHAT'S GOING ON?

OUR "KID SIDEKICK" THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO KILL ANDREW-- THE LAST CREATURE KEEPING EVIL AT BAY--

HEY! *I THOUGHT I WAS HELPING!*

I DON'T THINK STARTING A VAMPIRE MASSACRE IS CONSIDERED "HELPING," TIG...

THIS IS JUST *GREAT.* I'M *SO* GLAD YOU INVITED ME ONTO YOUR TEAM, XANADU.

UGHH!

THERE HE IS. I SEE HIM.

"I UNDERSTAND NOW..."

OUR POWER GROWS. THE WORLD IS OURS. HUMANITY IS... FINISHED...

MY OVERWHELMING SENSE OF DREAD. ZATANNA'S WEAKENING ENCHANTMENTS.

EVEN CONSTANTINE'S OCCULT CIRCLE GOING UP IN SMOKE.

HE IS *CAIN.* AND HE'S *STEALING ALL THE MAGIC...* AND USING IT TO STRENGTHEN HIS *ARMY.*

I JUST HOPE... I AM NOT TOO LATE TO *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

I MUST GO ELSEWHERE.

JOHN CONSTANTINE, BOSTON BRAND. I HAVE WORK FOR YOU.

FORGET IT. I'M ON STRIKE.

D.

YOU WILL GO TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD... AND BRING *BACK* THE ONE NAMED ANDREW BENNETT.

NOW...HELP ME, OH MERLIN. MORGANA THE FAY...GIVE ME STRENGTH...

ARRGHHH!

XANADU? WHAT THE BLOODY HELL WAS--

I SUPPOSE SHE EXPECTS *US* TO LOOK AFTER HER SODDING BODY.

OH, NICE. HER ASTRAL BODY'S DONE A *RUNNER.*

SHADE! MAYBE YOU COULD TRY TO GET US AWAY?

I THINK THE PROBLEM'S BEEN... MY SUBCONSCIOUS HAS REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE VAMPIRES WERE *REAL*.

DAMMIT. THEY'RE MORE REAL THAN *WE* ARE!

BENNETT'S A SANCTIMONIOUS PIECE OF TRASH. EVEN IF WE FOUND HIM, HE WOULDN'T LIFT A FINGER TO HELP US.

KNOW WHAT I THINK? YOU CAN'T DO IT.

YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE *MAGIC* TO GET US OVER THERE.

ALL RIGHT. JUST TO SHOW YOU WHAT A WASTE OF TIME THIS IS.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT... RAT?

I'M GOING TO EAT IT. LAST MEAL OF THE CONDEMNED MAN.

ZATANNA... HEAR THAT? HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO *EAT* IT!

OH, DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING *JOHN CONSTANTINE* SAYS.

SHADE? THIS PLACE IS NO SAFER THAN DOWN THERE.

CAN YOU PLEASE STOP CRITICIZING ME?

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

REINFORCEMENTS.

YOU'RE WORSE THAN MADAME XANADU.

GHAHK!

...AND THEN, AFTER WE SACRIFICE THE PURIFIED RAT, WE APPLY THE HOLY WATER.

HOLY WATER?

THAT'S *WHISKEY.*

THAT'S IT? THE DOORWAY TO THE AFTERLIFE?

SAY, CONSTANTINE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO, YOU KNOW, GET BACK AGAIN, RIGHT?

I THINK YOU'RE SCARED. WHY? WHAT DO ***YOU*** HAVE TO BE WORRIED ABOUT? YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD. YOU'RE A GHOST.

DOESN'T MEAN I WANT TO BE STUCK OVER THERE.

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT YOUR SO-CALLED LIFE HERE? YOU CAN'T EAT OR DRINK. YOU CAN'T HOLD A WOMAN IN YOUR ARMS.

I DO ALL RIGHT.

NOW LET'S GET THIS SHOW STARTED.

THE LAND OF THE DEAD. THE BLOODY AFTERLIFE.

I MUST BE INSANE.

"IT IS THE END..."

THE ASTRAL ZONE OF THE CRYSTAL ONE.

...IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING... SOMETHING REALLY DRASTIC...

...IT WILL BE THE END OF US ALL. I GATHERED TOGETHER MY ***DARK TEAM*** TO TRY TO AVOID A DAY LIKE THIS. I REALLY ***TRIED.***

BUT NOW... NOW I NEED ***HELP.*** FROM A ***HIGHER SOURCE.***

XANADU, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU ARE ***ASKING*** OF ME?

I ASK A TERRIBLE THING. BUT THE ONE CALLED CAIN GROWS MORE POWERFUL BY THE MINUTE.

AND ARE YOU PREPARED... FOR HOW THEY WILL ***HATE*** YOU AFTERWARDS?

YES.

YES, I AM.

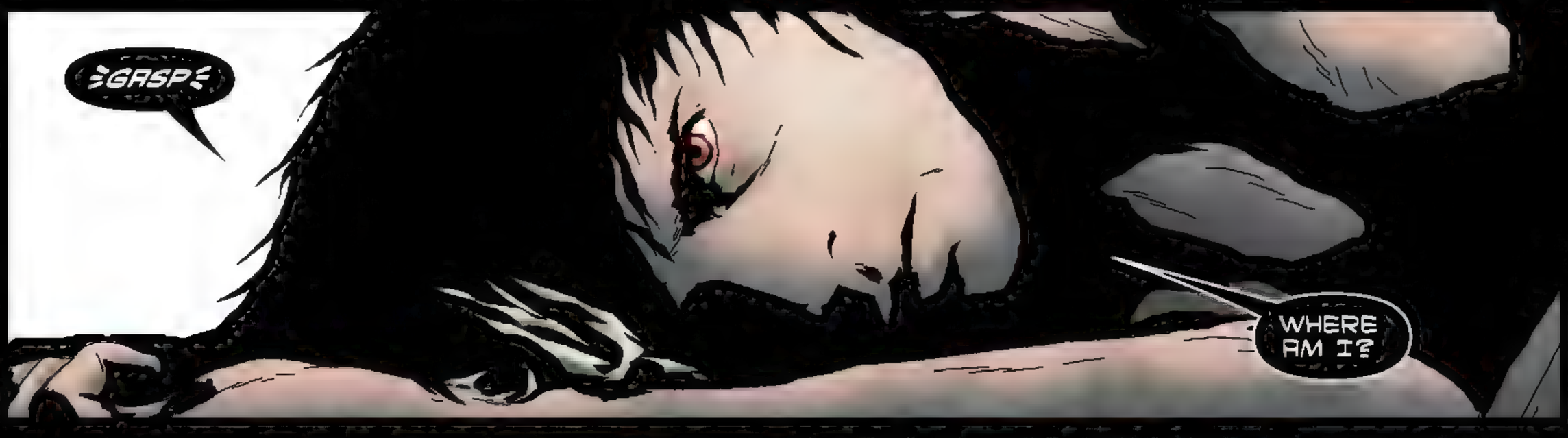
SORRENTINO

BLAME IT ON CAIN

JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV
writer

ANDREA SORRENTINO
artist

cover art by ANDREA SORRENTINO



WELCOME, ANDREW BENNETT.

HELLO?

YOU WILL NOT SEE ME, I AM NOT HERE. NEITHER ARE YOU.

BUT YOU ARE NOW HERE.

I AM?

YOU ARE NOWHERE.

GOTHAM CITY COURTHOUSE.

BLAME IT ON CAIN

THE SLEEPER HAS AWOKEN!

CAIN
PRIMORDIAL EVIL

MAN OH MAN...

MARY, QUEEN OF BLOOD
MODERN EVIL

THIS IS GOING TO BE TOTALLY *EPIC.*

PROFESSOR JOHN TROUGHTON
MIDDLE-AGED VAMPIRE HUNTER

TIG RAFELSON,
TORTURED TEEN
VAMPIRE HUNTER

THE BATMAN

WHAT DO WE DO?

I THINK, PROBABLY... WE RUN.

UH, BATMAN?

I AGREE.

GRAB ON.

AFTER THEM! DESTROY ALL HUMANS!

HEY!

FIRST OFF, YOU GET MORE FLIES WITH HONEY.

SO, Y'KNOW, LIGHTEN UP.

SECONDLY, I RUN THE VAMPIRES HERE.

ME. NOT SOME MEDIEVAL PASTY DOOFUS IN A DRESS.

YOU WERE THE MATE...

...OF THE ONE WHO BOUND ME.

WHO? ANDREW? WHEN DID HE BIND YOU? WHAT ARE YOU--?

I AM *CAIN,* I AM THE TAPROOT OF ALL, THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS, AND THE SOURCE OF ALL POWER.

AND I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU.

GLLLLK!

YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT YOU EITHER.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO RULE ON TODAY'S EARTH, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO WISE UP--

ZAP

GAH!

IN THE BETWEEN.

I...I'M DEAD.

NO, YOU ARE NOWHERE.

I WAS ALREADY DEAD.

YES.

THEN WHY DO I STILL... EXIST?

STRICTLY SPEAKING, YOU DON'T.

SO, WHY? WHY DO I STILL EXIST?

WHY DON'T I GET TO GO OFF IN PEACE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...

OR BURN IN HELL, OR WHATEVER THERE IS.

YOUR WORK IS NOT FINISHED.

YOU ARE STILL NEEDED.

I'VE DONE MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

SOMETIMES. BUT NOW THE SCALES WILL BE TIPPED.

BEFORE THERE WAS LIGHT OR DARK OR HEAVEN OR EARTH, THERE WAS BLACKNESS.

AND THE BLACKNESS TOOK THE FORM OF A MAN.

THAT MAN WOULD COME TO NAME HIMSELF CAIN.

CAIN WALKED THE EARTH UNTIL HE MET A WOMAN, ANOTHER CAST OUT FROM GOD'S KINGDOM.

HE FED UPON HER FRAGILE, BROKEN BODY.

AND IN HER BLOOD HE FOUND POWER.

IN HIS BITE, SHE FOUND THE CURSE.

PLAGUES, FLOODS, BLOOD RAINING FROM THE SKY.

ALWAYS HE WAS THERE, AND USUALLY, HIS PRINCESS WAS BY HIS SIDE.

TOGETHER THEY SPREAD A PLAGUE OF VIOLENCE ACROSS THE WORLD.

AS HIS FAMILY GREW, SO DID HIS POWER.

HE WAS PRIMORDIAL.

HE HAD EXISTED BEFORE LIFE, BEFORE THE WORLD, BEFORE MAGIC.

HE COULD BEND THE RULES TO HIS WILL.

HE WAS FROM WHENCE THE SNAKE OF YOUR BIBLE GREW. TRUE EVIL.

BUT HE MET HIS MATCH AT THE HAND OF AN ARMY OF GREAT MYSTICAL WARRIORS.

HIS PRISON HAD A UNIQUE LOCK, A VERY SPECIAL CREATURE.

ONE OF HIS CHILDREN WHO MANAGED TO RETAIN THEIR HUMANITY.

YOU, ANDREW BENNETT, YOU WERE THE SEAL THAT KEPT HIM LOCKED IN JAIL.

AND NOW HE'S FREE, AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.

WHY ME? WHAT MADE ME SPECIAL?

IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE TO KNOW.

I...

I CAN'T GO BACK.

THE COURTHOUSE ROOF

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

REINFORCE-MENTS.

ZATANNA! TELL ME YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON--

ALL I KNOW IS THAT XANADU SAID SOME GUY IS SUCKING UP ALL THE MAGIC, INCLUDING OURS...THEN SHE SENT CONSTANTINE AND DEADMAN ON A SUICIDE MISSION.

SO, HOW *YOU* DOING?

WHO'S THE GUY WITH THE TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT--?

KCAB FFO!

THAT'S SHADE, HE'S A TELEPORTING ALIEN WITH DEEP PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES.

AND SORT OF USELESS.

USELESS, HUH?

WHY'S XANADU JUST SITTING THERE?

SHE'S ON THE ASTRAL PLANE FINDING OUT HOW TO STOP THE *BIG BAD.*

NRUT OT TSUD!

CAN YOU HOLD THEM BACK, ZATANNA? MY CITY NEEDS ME--

DOWN BELOW

TERRIFIC. AN ANCIENT MAGICAL VAMPIRE BLASTING AWAY, SCREWING EVERYTHING UP.

I HATE MAGIC.

HEY! C'MON, GUYS, WE HAD A WHOLE, LIKE...PLAN HERE.

YOU'RE JUST...EATING PEOPLE, IT'S REALLY...

SIMPLE.

HELLO?!?

I'M YOUR *QUEEN!* YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LISTEN TO ME.

HEY!

HISSSSS!

AW, MAN.

YOU GUYS'RE ALL SOUPED UP AND MAGICKY AND CRAZY.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...?

SHADE, ZATANNA, I NEED YOU TO PROTECT THESE TWO...

THE CITY IS BEING TORN APART. THERE ARE PEOPLE I CAN HELP.

SO YOU'RE JUST LEAVING US TO DIE THEN?

HEY! WE CAN HEAR YOU!

YES, AND BOTH OF YOU ARE QUICKLY BECOMING POWERLESS.

I'D RATHER GO WITH THE VIGILANTE.

ROBIN? GO AGAIN. I CAN'T HEAR YOU...?

ROBIN?!?

I HAVE TO GO.

MY CITY IS BURNING, AND I'M TRAPPED HERE WITH THE ONES HOLDING THE MATCHES.

WELL, I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.

HOW'S THIS *MY* FAULT?

YOU KILLED ANDREW.

HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW SOME SUPER-EVIL DEMON GUY WAS GOING TO CRAWL OUT OF HIM?!?

NOT THE POINT, BUT LET'S GO OUT IN STYLE, YES?

THEY'RE GETTING STRONGER, AND WE'RE GETTING WEAKER.

AND GUYS, THE WHOLE HEAD CUTTING OFF THING...

REALLY NOT WORKING ANYMORE.

WE NEED HELP--

NO, WE *NEED* A MIRACLE--

?

NEED A HAND?

WHAT THE *HELL?*

YOU SEE YOUR FRIENDS IN PERIL.

BECAUSE I PUT THEM THERE.

NO, BECAUSE YOU DID NOT ACT.

THIS IS DESTINY.

DESTINY IS FOR TEENAGE GIRLS.

I SPEW DEATH.

CAIN IS DEATH.

CAIN EXISTS BECAUSE YOU FAILED.

HE IS REBORN ON THE BACK OF YOUR MISTAKES--

--AND ONLY YOU CAN PUT HIM DOWN.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

EVERYONE WHO'S EITHER HUMAN, DRESSED LIKE A HOOKER OR WEARING A REALLY STUPID OUTFIT GET BEHIND ME.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.

DON'T ARGUE WITH THE CRAZY DEMON LADY, ZATANNA.

ALL RIGHT, CHILDREN...

COME TO MOMMY.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MISBEHAVE!

SHE'S... ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS?

NORMALLY, NO.

BUT WHEN THE DEVIL COMES CALLING, YOU TAKE WHAT HELP YOU CAN.

SON OF A BITCH THINKS HE CAN TAKE MY PLACE?

I WORKED HARD TO BUILD AN ARMY TO WIPE OUT MANKIND.

I THINK WE MIGHT WANT TO CUT *HER* HEAD OFF NOW.

WE GOTTA GO, BEFORE CAIN'S POWER REACHES

BOOM

TOO LATE.

CONSTANTINE, WE COULD REALLY USE YOU RIGHT NOW.

CHILDREN!

IT IS OUR TIME!

MAGIC IS LEAVING THEIR HANDS AND FLOWING THROUGH ME...

AND INTO YOU ALL.

AND NOW I REMOVE YOUR WEAKNESSES--

--AND WE BEGIN OUR RULE!

Y'KNOW, I WAS GOING ALONG ALL HAPPY AND ABOUT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD, PROBABLY GOING TO SCORE WITH BATMAN...

"AND NOW, I'VE GOT A PRIMORDIAL EVIL CO-OPTING MY ARMY...

"A BUNCH OF MYSTICAL MORONS ALL AROUND ME...

"AND ANDREW'S 'BOYFRIEND' AND HIS STUPID KID..."

DAMMIT, XANADU, WHERE *ARE* YOU?

"I BET SOMEWHERE ANDREW BENNETT IS *REALLY* ENJOYING THIS."

THE LEAVING

PETER MILLIGAN
writer

DANIEL SAMPERE
artist

cover art by RYAN SOOK

THE EAVING

BUT THOUGH I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE, I'VE NO IDEA HOW THIS WILL TURN OUT...

THE ONLY VAMPIRE EVER TO RETAIN HIS CONSCIENCE, HIS DEATH ALLOWED GREAT EVIL TO RISE.

MY NAME IS **MADAME XANADU**. I'VE SENT JOHN CONSTANTINE AND BOSTON BRAND TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD IN SEARCH OF THE SOUL OF **ANDREW BENNETT**.

AND I WASN'T **SCREAMING** EITHER, OKAY?

IT WASN'T A SWING, YOU JERK, IT WAS A HIGH-WIRE. AND I DIDN'T EXACTLY FALL...I WAS SHOT.

YOU SCREAMING AND FALLING FROM YOUR SWING TO A HORRIBLE DEATH.

THIS MUST TAKE YOU BACK, BRAND.

THE SOUND OF THE CIRCUS, THE SMELL OF GREASE-PAINT.

FOR EVEN MY PIERCING EYE CANNOT PENETRATE THE GREAT DIVIDE...

ANDREW?

ANDREW BENNETT?

CONSTANTINE? YOU'RE HERE TOO? THEN THIS MUST BE *HELL*.

HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BENNETT, BUT I'M JUST A TOURIST HERE.

YOU GOTTA COME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING, BENNETT.

THERE'S THIS BIG BAD KING OF THE VAMPIRES CALLED CAIN WHO'S TEARING THINGS UP.

WE NEED YOUR HELP, BUDDY.

NO...

I LIVED FOR SIX-HUNDRED YEARS... AND ALL I DID WAS HURT PEOPLE.

PURGATORY IS PUNISHMENT... AND I'M *STAYING* HERE.

HOW MANY DIED BECAUSE OF MY SELFISHNESS? HUNDREDS? *THOUSANDS?*

I LIVED FOR HALF A MILLENIA WATCHING THE WOMAN I LOVE MURDER INNOCENTS... AND I COULDN'T STOP HER.

COULDN'T? OR WOULDN'T? THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE AMENDS, ANDREW.

YOU CAN'T LET EVERY PERSON YOU EVER CARED ABOUT BURN...JUST BECAUSE YOU HAD A ***BAD TURN.*** COME ON, I HEARD YOU WERE A ***GOOD GUY.***

WHATEVER I WAS...DIED A LONG TIME AGO.

I'M SORRY, I'VE GOT NO FIGHT LEFT IN ME.

AND THEY CALL ***ME*** A SELFISH BUGGER!

COME ON, BRAND. WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME HERE.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE'S GONNA LET CAIN DESTROY EVERY-THING HE WORKED SO HARD TO *PROTECT?*

YES, I AM MADAME XANADU.

THE OTHERS ARE SHADE THE CHANGING MAN AND ZATANNA. MY ALLIES.

AND THOUGH I'VE NOT MET HER, THE BLUE-SKINNED WOMAN IS MARY, QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES--OR SHE WAS, UNTIL CAIN SHOWED UP.

GOTHAM CITY.

WHILE MY SOLID BODY, MY CORPOREAL SHELL, MIGHT BE ON EARTH...

...MY QUINTESSENCE IS ELSEWHERE.

THE ASTRAL ZONE OF THE CRYSTAL ONE.

POWER, MASTER. CAIN SIPHONS THE WORLD'S MAGIC UNTO HIMSELF...

ALL I ASK...

IS THAT IT BE GIVEN TO SOME-ONE MORE... WORTHY.

LET HISTORY TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.

WORTHY. THAT IS NOT HOW HISTORY MIGHT SEE IT.

VERY WELL, DAUGHTER.

LET THE BALANCE OF POWER SHIFT.

"...LET THE WINDS OF GOTHAM CHANGE DIRECTION.

"LET BRAVE MEN LOOK UP AND KNOW.

"KNOW IN THEIR HEARTS AND THEIR HEADS...

"THAT *SOMETHING* HAS *CHANGED*."

S...SOMETHING... HAPPENING.

I SENSE... SOME POWERFUL... FORCE SEEKING TO INTERFERE FROM AFAR.

WHATEVER IT IS... IT WILL COME TOO LATE TO STOP ME.

I AM THE ORIGINAL FORCE.

I HAVE THE POWER TO CONQUER THIS WORLD.

THIS IS MY TIME.

IT'S NO GOOD, PROFESSOR, WE CAN'T BEAT THEM!

I'VE NO SYMPATHY FOR YOU, TIG.

IF YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF A VAMPIRE ARMY, THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE RELEASED THEIR PRIMORDIAL LEADER!

AGHKKK!

SHADE! SHE'S TREMBLING. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING... TO HER BODY.

MY M-VEST... TAPPING INTO MY FEARS...

...RIPPING OPEN MY SUBCONSCIOUS...

IT'S FORCING ME... TO *WARP* REALITY...

I CAN'T *CONTROL* IT! I...I...

THAT VEST SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY THING WORKING PROPERLY RIGHT NOW.

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, AND--

HISTORY... TAKE CARE OF...OF... HISTORY...

OH. OH...IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I REMEMBERED.

IF IT DOESN'T WORK, YOU MIGHT HATE ME.

IF IT *DOES* WORK...YOU MIGHT HATE ME MORE.

WHAT THE HELL DOES *THAT* MEAN?

AND EVEN WORSE THAN YOU *THINK!* XANADU, WHERE HAVE YOU *BEEN?*

PORD DAED!

UGHH... UGHH... UGHHH...

LIKE I SAID, THINGS ARE WORSE THAN YOU THINK.

MY SPELLS CAN STOP THEM FOR A WHILE. BUT THEY JUST WON'T KILL THEM ANYMORE.

XANADU, WAKE *UP!*

WHAT DID YOU MEAN, "IF IT WORKS"? HAVE YOU DONE SOMETHING TO FIX MY MAGIC?

I'M... SORRY. SO... SO WEAK...

MY JOURNEY... TOOK TOO MUCH OUT OF ME. AND IT MIGHT ALL BE TOO LATE.

WHERE ARE CONSTANTINE AND DEADMAN? THEY SHOULD HAVE RETURNED BY NOW.

AGHHHHHHH!!

MY GOD! WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO HIM?

COMPLETE MENTAL BREAKDOWN. IT WAS ALWAYS A RISK ENLISTING SHADE, IN LIGHT OF HIS *HISTORY*.

POOR THING, AFTER THAT *GIRL* OF HIS DIED, HE--

YOU MEAN KATHY. WHAT'S THE STORY THERE?

THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT. A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT. SHADE'S VEST WAS MALFUNCTIONING...

"HE BLAMED HIMSELF. FIGURED IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT HIS SUBCONSCIOUS *WANTED* HER DEAD.

"HE MAY HAVE HAD A *POINT*, OF COURSE."

AGHHHHHH!

SHADE, GET A GRIP! *YOU* CONTROL THE M-VEST, IT DOESN'T CONTROL YOU.

NO, NO, YOU'RE WRONG. YOU'RE SO VERY WRONG.

GOODBYE, BOTH OF YOU. IT'S BEEN... IT'S BEEN...

COME BACK. WE'LL HELP YOU.

WE *NEED* YOU, SHADE...

UGH.

YOU CAN'T. HELP ME.

NO ONE... NO ONE CAN...

...HELP?

SHADE?

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, SHADE.

KATHY. OH, KATHY... WHERE *IS* THIS?

YOU DON'T NEED TO ASK ME THAT.

WE'RE IN THE AREA OF MADNESS?

YOU CAN TOUCH ME. I'M QUITE SOLID.

SHADE, DARLING...

...THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO KNOW.

YES, ASK ME ANYTHING. THERE'LL BE NO MORE LIES. NO MORE SECRETS.

I THINK THAT'S WHY MY VEST HAD ITS ACCIDENT. ALL THOSE...THOSE SECRETS...

SHH. STOP BLAMING YOURSELF FOR THAT. AND TELL ME...

JOHN CONSTANTINE, ZATANNA, MADAME XANADU, BOSTON BRAND.

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

YOU WERE THAT "TEAM," WEREN'T YOU? WILL YOU BE GOING BACK TO THEM?

I...I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK... THAT'S ALL OVER FOR ME.

THERE'S A CHANGE COMING, KATHY. SOMETHING BEYOND OUR UNDER-STANDING. I...

WHAT IS IT, SHADE?

I REALLY DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ROOM FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME IN THEIR "TEAM" ANY LONGER.

GOODBYE, CHANGING MAN.

WE'LL HAVE TO GRIEVE LATER, XAN!

WE'RE BEING OVERRUN!

FUNNY, I NEVER SAW THIS COMING.

YEAH, IT'S REALLY SIDE-SPLITTING.

I'VE MADE A DECISION.

I DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR DEATH TO COME, WHENEVER THAT MONSTER CHOOSES TO KILL US.

I'M GOING TO *FACE* IT.

RIGHT, A CLAPPED OUT FORTUNE TELLER AND HER GOTH CHICK SIDEKICK VERSUS EVIL PERSONIFIED. THIS'LL BE *HILARIOUS*.

WHO'S SHE CALLING A *SIDEKICK?*

I... I'LL COME TOO.

THAT IS, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME.

I *DO* BLAME YOU FOR GETTING US INTO THIS, XANADU. BUT I SUPPOSE NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO HOLD GRUDGES.

COME ON, SISTERS.

THE HOUR IS AT HAND...

WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE?

UM, YOUR IMMORTAL SOULS?

LET'S MAKE THIS QUICK, CHILDREN.

I HAVE A WORLD TO TAKE OVER.

HE'S TOO STRONG! WE CAN'T *STOP* HIM!

ALL OF MY POWER, EVERY-THING...

TEG SU TUO FO EREH!

DAMMIT! I HATE TELEPORTING!

UGHF!

AGGH. THAT'S IT. I'M ALL MAGICKED OUT. I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT.

WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

I THINK IT'S **ROBINSON PARK.** WE CAME HERE ON A SCHOOL TRIP TO GOTHAM ONCE. TOTAL DISASTER.

SCIENCE TEACHER GOT MUGGED...CLASS PRESIDENT RAN OFF WITH A DRUG DEALER...

UH, HEY DUMMIES...

"...CAIN'S FOLLOWED US."

HE'S GOT A TASTE FOR OUR BLOOD...

SORRY, I...I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO THROW AT HIM.

THEN IT'S OVER.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

A GATEWAY TO THE OTHER SIDE.

BENNETT. THEY'RE BRINGING HIM BACK...

THERE IS HOPE...

UGHH...

ONE OF YOU *WITCHES OF EASTWICK*...

MIGHT WANT TO...

GIVE US A... BLOODY *HAND* HERE...

WHERE'S BENNETT? YOU WERE MEANT TO BRING HIM BACK WITH YOU.

WE TRIED.

YEAH, WE EXPLAINED WHAT A MESS WE WERE IN. HE COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ANDREW.

WE TRIED TO SLOW DOWN CAIN. HE WAS JUST TOO STRONG.

"SO I SUGGEST WE GET OUT OF HERE AND REGROUP."

ELSEWHERE...

WHY ARE THEY ALL LEAVING?

I DON'T KNOW, KID, BUT WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW THEM.

UH, WOULDN'T IT BE SMARTER TO RUN IN THE *OTHER* DIRECTION?

COME ON, TIG...

XENO

"...I NEED YOU TO HOTWIRE A CAR."

ONE MORE CIGARETTE BEFORE I DIE. THAT'S ALL I ASK.

THERE IS NO TIME, EVEN FOR THAT. LISTEN, ALL OF YOU...

I GATHERED YOU TOGETHER BECAUSE YOU WERE A DANGER TO YOURSELVES AS WELL AS OTHERS. IT WAS A FINE IDEAL.

MY "PROJECT" DIDN'T LAST AS LONG AS I'D HOPED, BUT...BUT I TRULY BELIEVE...THAT IT HAS BEEN WORTHWHILE.

WORTHWHILE MY JACKSEY. WE MIGHT AS WELL ALL HAVE STAYED HOME AND GOT PISSED.

AYE AYE, WIND'S BLOWING UP.

THANK YOU... MASTER...

"...LET THE WINDS OF GOTHAM...CHANGE DIRECTION...

"LET BRAVE MEN... LOOK UP AND KNOW..."

LET THEM KNOW IN THEIR HEARTS AND THEIR HEADS...

...BUT ESPECIALLY THEIR HEARTS...

YES, LET THEM KNOW...

NEWS

"THAT *SOMETHING* HAS *CHANGED*..."

SO...I THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

SEEMS I'VE GOT A LITTLE *FIGHT* LEFT IN ME AFTER ALL.

WELL, DID YOU *MISS* ME?

SOR REN TIN O·II

CRUEL TO BE KIND

JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV
writer

ANDREA SORRENTINO
artist

cover art by ANDREA SORRENTINO & MARCELO MAIOLO

ROBINSON PARK, GOTHAM.

MISS ME?

ANDREW BENNETT
BORN-AGAIN VAMPIRE

THE DEMON'S LOCK? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

CAIN
PRIMORDIAL
EVIL INCARNATE

DESTROY HIM!

CRUEL TO BE KIND

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

DUST TO DUST.

PROFESSOR JOHN TROUGHTON ANDREW'S SHELL-SHOCKED SIDEKICK

HE'S TURNING THE VAMPIRES TO DUST...THAT'S... IMPOSSIBLE...

MARY, QUEEN OF BLOOD ANDREW'S EX, FORMER HEAD VAMPIRE

WHAT... THE HELL...WAS *THAT?!?*

JOHN CONSTANTINE HELLBLAZER, CIGARETTE SMOKER

THAT'S NOT GOOD.

MADAME XANADU MYSTIC SEER, MAKING THINGS WORSE

FOR NOW, HE'S OUR ONLY HOPE. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT AFTERWARDS IF THERE IS ONE.

I WILL END YOU!

WITHOUT YOUR ARMY, CAIN? REALLY?

GAH!

WHAT...DID THEY *DO* TO YOU IN THE AFTERLIFE?!

THEY BALANCED THE SCALES.

THEY MADE ME YOUR EQUAL AND YOUR OPPOSITE.

YOU TRY TO DESTROY THE WORLD, AND I'M HERE TO BUILD SOMETHING NEW.

YOU KILL YOUR OWN KIND.

TRAITOR.

USED TO BE, YEAH.

'CEPT, Y'SEE, CAIN, I'M SOMETHING *NEW.*

SOME-THING MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

AND I'VE PLAYED BY THE RULES LAID OUT FOR ME FOR FAR TOO LONG.

SO, HOW'S ABOUT WE WRITE A WHOLE NEW RULEBOOK?

SO YEAH, CAIN, I *WAS* A TRAITOR, YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT NOW, YOU EVIL BASTARD...

I AM A PATRIOT!

HE'S REFORMING ALL THE VAMPIRES...

UH, SERIOUSLY NOT GOOD.

WE'RE SCREWED.

WHAT SHE SAID.

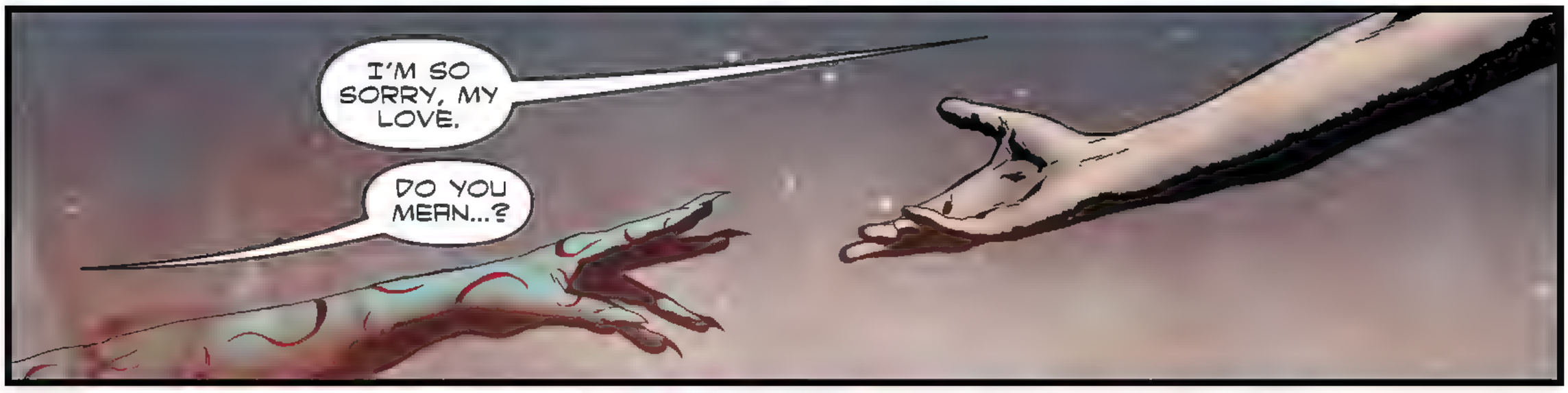
WE WERE BETTER OFF WITH THE PONCE IN THE DRESS.

THIS IS NOT WHAT--

THIS IS VERY BAD.

HOT DAMN.

ANDREW!

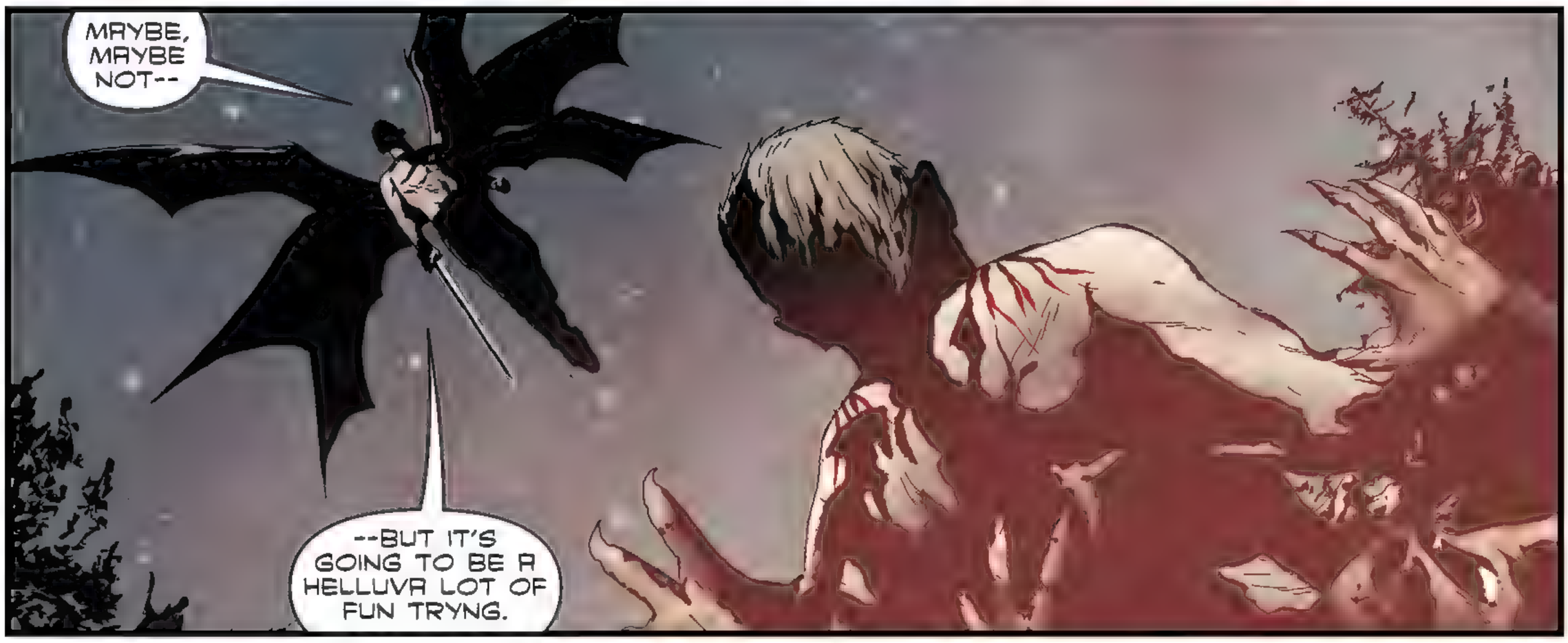

I'M SO SORRY, MY LOVE.
DO YOU MEAN...?

I'VE SEEN THE ERROR OF MY WAYS, YES.

NOW LET'S KILL THIS PRIMORDIAL JACKASS.

NO! YOU DARE NOT ATTACK ME!
I AM YOUR GENESIS!

YOU HAVE THIS ROUND, BUT YOU'VE WON NOTHING.
YOUR GREAT POWERS ARE FINITE. I AM FOREVER!
YOU CANNOT KILL ME!


MAYBE, MAYBE NOT--
--BUT IT'S GOING TO BE A HELLUVA LOT OF FUN TRYNG.

THE MAGIC CAIN WAS DRAWING IN--

--YOU SHUNTED IT TO *HIM?*

I DIDN'T THINK--

NO, XAN, YOU DIDN'T. YOU TRADED ONE BIG BAD FOR ANOTHER.

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY CAIN COULD BE STOPPED. ALBEIT TEMPO-RARILY.

SO I'M CLEAR, DID WE JUST REINCARNATE A VAMPIRE VERSION OF CHE GUEVARA?

HE'S UP TO SOMETHING, TIG, I SWEAR.

ANDREW WOULD NEVER GO BACK TO HER...

YEAH?

"'CAUSE THEN I THINK HE'S TRYING TO EAT HER TO DEATH, FACE FIRST."

MY LEGION, KILL THE HUMANS.

GOTHAM IS OURS--

YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING.

BUT--

WE LEAVE. OUR SECRET HAS BEEN EXPOSED ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY.

IN FACT, WITH ALL THIS POWER, MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

Purge your minds, purge your histories...

May all records of this day be **gone!**

DOES THAT WORK?

I THINK SO, YES. MY POWERS ARE STILL... NEW.

I STILL REMEMBER.

YOU SHOULD.

THIS IS ALL *YOUR* FAULT, AFTER ALL.

OKAY, NOW WE'RE LEAVING.

AND GOING WHERE, EXACTLY?

TO BUILD OUR EMPIRE, MY LOVE.

ANDREW, YOU CAN'T DO THIS--

IT'S TOO LATE, JOHN.

I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M NOT THE ONE IN CHARGE.

THIS IS MY DESTINY.

I...I WANT TO COME WITH.

I HAVE OTHER USES FOR YOU, OLD FRIEND.

YES?

I DON'T...

OH.

NO, ANDREW, NO...

I WON'T DO IT.

THEY'RE... MONSTERS.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE, OLD FRIEND.

IT'S TIME FOR PLAN B.

AND YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO LET YOUR FAIRY-WINGED, PRISSY ASS JUST WALTZ OUT OF HERE?

YOUR TEAM'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT, JOHN.

YOU REALLY WANT TO GO TOE TO TOE WITH *MINE?*

YOU'RE DIFFERENT, BENNETT. TOO POWERFUL FOR ANY ONE GUY.

I'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU.

CROSS THE LINE LIKE I KNOW YOU WILL, AND I'VE GOT A WEE SUN WITH YOUR NAME ON IT.

A DARKNESS IS FALLING ON THIS WORLD. ANCIENT EVILS BORN ANEW.

I PROMISE YOU, JOHN, NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF AN ASS YOU ARE, I'LL BE THERE TO HELP YOU.

UNTIL THEN...STAY THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY.

NOW, MY CHILDREN, WE BEGIN ANEW.

I *TOLD* YOU HE WAS EVIL.

HE'S...PLANNING SOMETHING.

ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME? HE JUST *TOOK OVER* A *VAMPIRE ARMY!*

AND DIDN'T LET THEM KILL ANYBODY.

OTHER THAN CAIN.

COME ON, KID, WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

WHERE ARE WE--?

WE NEED TO TELL THE *VAN HELSINGS.*

THE VAN *WHATS?*

ANCIENT ORDER OF VAMPIRE HUNTERS.

STOKER NAMED THE CHARACTER AFTER THEM.

THEY...

...ARE WORSE THAN THE VAMPIRES.

TERRIFIC.

THIS IS THE WORST ROAD TRIP EVER.

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TO GET MUCH, MUCH WORSE.

AT LEAST CAIN'S DEAD, RIGHT, PROF?

RIGHT, PROF...?

I VAMPIRE

THE PREY OF LOVE

SORENTINO·12

HURRY DOWN DOOMSDAY

JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV
writer

ANDREA SORRENTINO
artist

cover art by ANDREA SORRENTINO

TIME PASSES.

WHY ARE YOU AWAKE?

GO BACK TO SLEEP, MARY.

RIGHT, YOU'RE CLEARLY SITTING IN BED BROODING BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING.

I'M MAKING A MISTAKE.

YEAH.

UTAH SUCKS.

VERY FUNNY.

I'VE GOT EVERY DAMN VAMPIRE IN NORTH AMERICA SLEEPING ON MY DOORSTEP.

UTAH.

"AT LEAST THEY HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE YET."

HURRY DOWN DOOMSDAY

(THE BUGS ARE TAKING OVER)

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL DAY, FATHER.

YES.

PERHAPS TODAY WE CAN *FEED--*

WE DON'T FEED ANYMORE.

DAMMIT, I'M *SICK* OF THIS!! I HUNGER FOR BLOOD!

YOU *PROMISED* US A BETTER LIFE!

WE WILL *NOT* BE IGNORED!

I KNOW THIS IS HARDER THAN WE EXPECTED.

THIS IS A NEW LIFE FOR US ALL.

ONLY IF YOU FOLLOW ME CAN WE BE ASSURED OF OUR EXISTENCE.

YEAH, SOME EXISTENCE. SITTING AROUND DRINKING COW'S BLOOD, WAITING TO GET STAKED.

WHAT'D YOU SAY?

I HEARD ABOUT YOU BEFORE. YOU KILLED YOUR OWN, MASSACRED THOUSANDS...

AND NOW, YOU'RE...WHAT? LIKE JESUS CHRIST SUPERVAMPIRE?

ALL THAT MAGICAL POWER, AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS HIDE IN YOUR TENT WAITING.

GAAAAH!

I'M NOT YOUR SAVIOR.

I'M YOUR *JAILER.*

HE *MEANS* THAT ONLY HE CAN SET YOU FREE.

OUR OPPRESSION BY MANKIND AND BY OUR OWN CURSE IS AT AN END.

ANDREW BENNETT IS HERE TO REMAKE US IN HIS IMAGE.

AND *WHAT* AN IMAGE IT IS, RIGHT?

...

PUT HIM DOWN, DEAR.

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY.

"YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT, PROFESSOR?

"I MEAN, THIS IS *ABSURD.*"

"THE ORDER OF THE VAN HELSINGS IS NO JOKE, TIG."

THEN WHY DO THEY LIVE IN THE CASTLE FROM "YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN"?

THEY'RE WHERE ALL OF THAT NONSENSE COMES FROM.

IT'S SAID THAT STOKER SPENT SUMMERS NEARBY AS A BOY.

ALTHOUGH THAT MIGHT JUST BE THE TRAVEL BROCHURE.

I KNOW IT'LL BE HARD FOR YOU, BUT CAN YOU *TRY* TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT?

PLEASE?

BONG BONG BONG

I'LL TELL YOU, PROF, AFTER A MONTH ALONE WITH YOU, I REALLY MISS THE *BLOODSUCKER.*

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

THEY'RE WATCHING US.

THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING US FOR *DAYS*, TIG.

SO, YOU KNOW THIS IS A TRAP, RIGHT?

PLEASE, I'M NOT AN *IMBECILE.*

OKAY, THAT'S PRETTY AWESOME.

YES, I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THAT.

STATE YOUR PURPOSE.

I COME WITH WORD FROM AMERICA.

OUR *AGENTS* SEND US WORD.

I BRING A MESSAGE FROM *ANDREW BENNETT.*

AT A NEARBY SLAUGHTERHOUSE...

SUTTON FAMILY
MEAT PRODUCTS
C.De Matteis
- Plant Manager

THAT SHOULD SQUARE US UP FOR THIS WEEK.

ANOTHER FIVE HUNDRED HEAD OF CATTLE WILL BE DELIVERED IN THE A.M.

THANKS.

WATCH THOSE BOYS OUT THERE, THEY'RE TROUBLE.

I WILL.

THANKS.

HOW YOU DOING?
WHAT YOU NEED THE COWS FOR, MAN?

PERSONAL REASONS.

HA!
YOU ONE OF THEM PERVERTS IN THE DESERT?

PERVERTS? CHARMING WAY OF PUTTING IT.

S'ALL THEY TALK ABOUT 'ROUND HERE, YOU AND YOURS TAKING UP RESIDENCE IN THAT PARK.
SOME PEOPLE'RE SAYING Y'ALL ARE VAMPIRES.
YOU'RE PROBABLY MORE THE "TWILIGHT" KIND THAN THE "30 DAYS OF NIGHT" KIND THOUGH, HUH?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS VAMPIRES.

BESIDES, *LOOK--*

--THE SUN'S UP AND I'M NOT ON FIRE.

FAIR ENOUGH.

VAMPIRE OR NOT, YOU AND YOURS AREN'T ***WELCOME*** HERE.

REALLY? I'M SAD TO HEAR THAT.

AND IF WE RETURN, THEN, SAY, WHAT EXACTLY WOULD YOU DO ABOUT IT?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK.

WELL, IF YOU DID *THAT...*

...I'D HAVE TO DO *THIS.*

JUST SAYIN'.

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*

ANDREW BENNETT HAS FINALLY SHOWN HIS *TRUE* COLORS--

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I *SAID* THAT HE'S BEING FORCED TO BEHAVE... UNCHARACTERISTICALLY.

I'M WITH VAN OVER THERE.

BENNETT, YOU SAY, WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE?

YES, HE WAS KILLED...

BY ACCIDENT...

AND THEN... RESTORED.

HE USED THAT POWER TO RALLY THE VAMPIRES...

WHEN HE CAME BACK, HE'D BEEN... *TOUCHED* SOMEHOW. MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY VAMPIRE I'VE EVER SEEN.

HE TOLD US TO FIND YOU AND BRING YOU TO HIM.

...PROF?

...

YOU JUST POISONED US, DIDN'T YOU?

THUD!

TO ME, MY WARRIORS...

THERE IS *MUCH* WORK TO DO.

LOOK! THERE HE *GOES!*

I THOUGHT *WE* WERE GOING TO LEARN HOW TO DO THAT...

HOW LONG WILL YOU KEEP THIS UP, MY LOVE?

AS LONG AS I NEED TO.

THEY WON'T PUT UP WITH THIS FOR MUCH LONGER...

I KNOW.

PERHAPS WE COULD JUST LET THEM FEED--

...

COME BACK...

YOU'RE RIGHT, MARY.

MANY OF YOU ARE UNHAPPY WITH OUR ARRANGEMENT.

I UNDER-STAND YOUR FRUSTRATION.

IF YOU WANT TO GO AND FEED, I UNDERSTAND...

YOU'RE FREE TO DO SO.

BUT.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT ME TO DO IT.

NO? NOBODY?

ANY OF YOU MAY CHALLENGE ME AT ANY TIME, AND I PROMISE TO SHOW YOU THE ULTIMATE MERCY.

A FAST DEATH.

AHEM.

I THINK I MIGHT JUST TAKE YOU ***UP*** ON THAT, LOVER.

YOU AND ***ME, ONE*** ON ***ONE.*** IF YOU WIN, I DIE AND THEY'RE YOURS.

IF I WIN, I GET MY ARMY BACK.

DEAL?

WHERE...

WHAT HAPPENED?

SORRY FOR THAT. WE HAD TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH.

NOW SIT BACK, WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO.

WHERE--

"WHY, TO SEE YOUR ***FRIEND***, OF COURSE."

"UGH, DO WE ***HAVE*** TO GO TO ***UTAH?***"

WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD

JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV
writer

ANDREA SORRENTINO
artist

cover art by CLAYTON CRAIN

YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, MARY.

NO, ANDREW, I DON'T.

BUT IF IT'LL GET ME MY ARMY BACK, I WILL.

I STILL HAVE MORE POWER THAN YOU CAN EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND.

TEACH ME, LOVER BOY.

WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD

THE HIGH DESERT OF UTAH.
HOME OF THE VAMPIRE UPRISING MOVEMENT.

"LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, PROFESSOR TROUGHTON...

"IT SEEMS TO ME YOU WERE A GOOD MAN ONCE.

"WHAT DOES THIS BLOODSUCKING FIEND HAVE OVER YOU?"

"HE'S NOT A FIEND, FOR A START."

"FINE, LET'S SAY THAT HE'S NOT..."

FIFTY MILES AWAY

BUT ANDREW BENNETT ALLOWS THE HELL-BITCH TO LIVE AND TO KILL.

HE AND I... DISAGREED ABOUT THAT.

HE STOPPED MARY...

MOST OF THE TIME.

I FIND EMPIRICAL MORAL RELATIVISM SO INTERESTING.

SOME NUMBER OF DEATHS IS ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE HE STOPPED SOME OTHER NUMBER OF DEATHS.

THE ORDER OF VAN HELSINGS MAY KILL BYSTANDERS, BUT AT LEAST WE DO IT WHILE TRYING TO ***KILL*** THE VAMPIRES, RATHER THAN SCREW THEIR BRAINS OUT.

I DIDN'T SAY THEY WERE ACCEPTABLE.

AND I MIGHT ADD, FOR THE LEADER OF AN ANCIENT CULT OF ***MURDERERS*** TO ARGUE MORAL ***RELATIVISM*** AT ME IS LAUGHABLE AT BEST.

WE SAW A WORLD WITHOUT ANDREW BENNETT IN IT, SIR, AND IT WASN'T A PRETTY SIGHT.

AH YES, YOUR SO-CALLED "CAIN." HE'S QUITE WELL KNOWN TO US. HE MURDERED MANY OF MY PREDECESSORS.

"PERHAPS YOU HAVE INSIGHT INTO SOMETHING ELSE...

"HOW IS IT THAT THEY CAN STILL LOVE EACH OTHER?"

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND--"

"I SUPPOSE YOU COULD ARGUE THAT HE'S SOMEHOW DIFFERENT FROM THE REST, BUT ***SHE***...

"SHE'S A SOULLESS MONSTER."

"PERHAPS IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT."

"NO, I DON'T THINK SO."

"YOU'VE SPENT YOUR LIFE MASSACRING VAMPIRES...WHAT IF, PERHAPS, THEY'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM YOU OR ME.

"SPECIFICALLY YOU."

"EXPLAIN."

"YOU AND YOUR KIND ARE MURDERERS. ANY WHO COME IN THE WAY OF YOUR 'MISSION' ARE DESTROYED."

"CORRECT."

"REPLACE 'MISSION' WITH 'HUNGER'."

"I SEE."

"MORAL OBJECTIVISM.

"YOU VIEW WHAT YOU DO AS CORRECT, ERGO, TO YOU IT IS CORRECT."

"SO, YOU'RE SAYING, OBJECTIVELY, MURDER, NO MATTER THE CAUSE, IS WRONG."

"YES."

"JUST AS LOVE IS INHERENTLY GOOD."

"I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING--

"I SPARED MARY SIMPLY BECAUSE I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO KILL HER MYSELF."

"NOW YOU'RE TALKING IN CIRCLES."

KRK

"NO, I'M SPEAKING IN SPECIFICS, YOU'RE SPEAKING IN THEORETICAL MUMBO JUMBO."

KRKRKK

HA!

"ISN'T EVERYTHING THEORETICAL, THOUGH? OTHER THAN ACTION."

"YOU'RE SCREWING WITH ME NOW."

"YES, I SUPPOSE I AM.

"LOOK, MY POINT IN ALL OF THIS IS THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON WHO COULD END MARY SEWARD'S 'LIFE.'"

"AND THAT ANDREW DIDN'T DO IT. TRUST ME, I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT.

"NOT ALL OF US DELUDE OURSELVES TO GIVE US SOME SENSE OF PURPOSE."

"LOW BLOW, SIR.

"HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW OF OUR ORGANIZATION?"

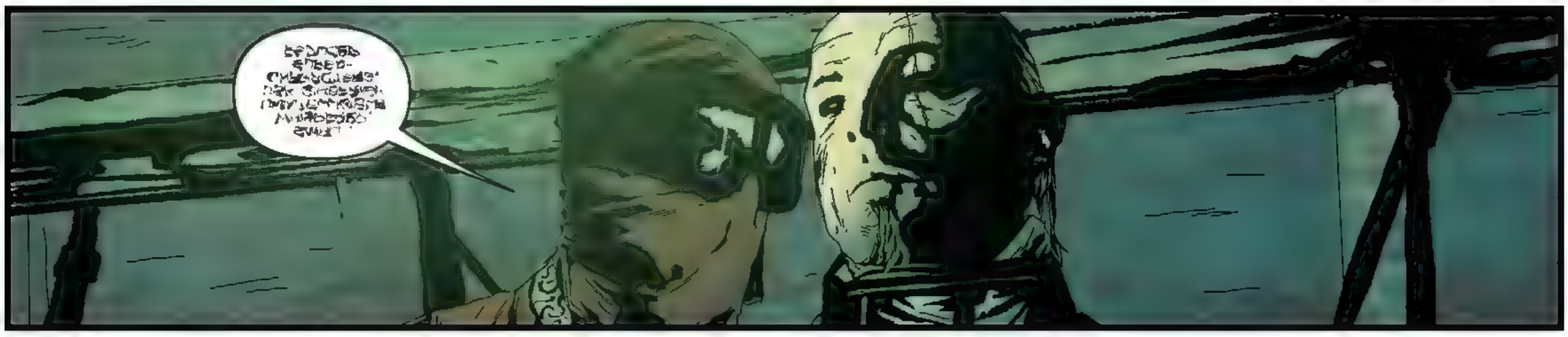
"ENOUGH."

WE WERE FORMED AFTER AN ANCIENT VAMPIRE, WHO MORE THAN LIKELY WAS YOUR CAIN, BROUGHT HIS BROOD INTO THE EGYPT OF RAMSES THE SECOND.

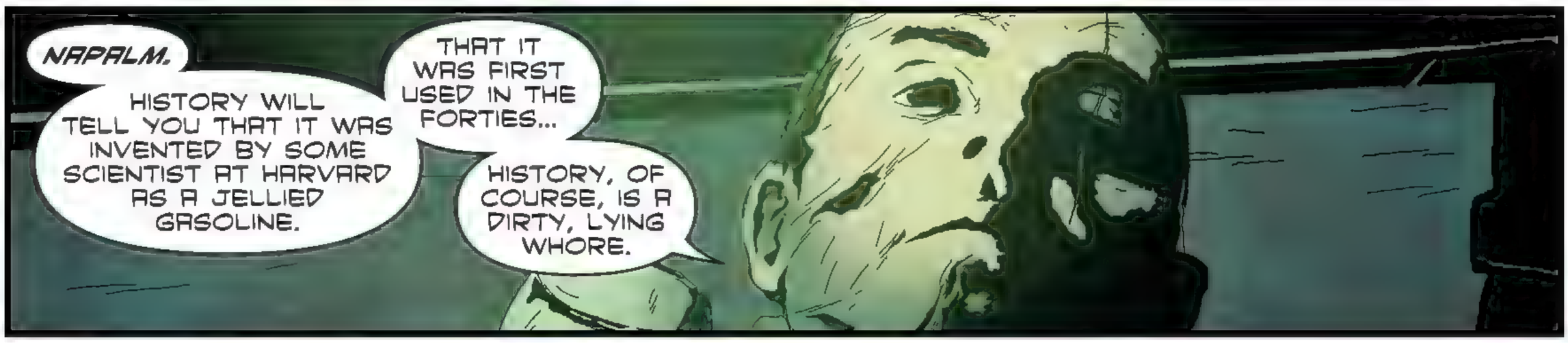
THIS IS SAID TO BE WHEN THEY LEARNED TO TRANSFORM THEMSELVES.

THEY MURDERED ALL COMERS, UNTIL ONE OF THE CITY'S GUARDS DROVE A WOODEN STAKE THROUGH ONE'S HEART, AND CUT OFF ITS HEAD FOR GOOD MERSURE.

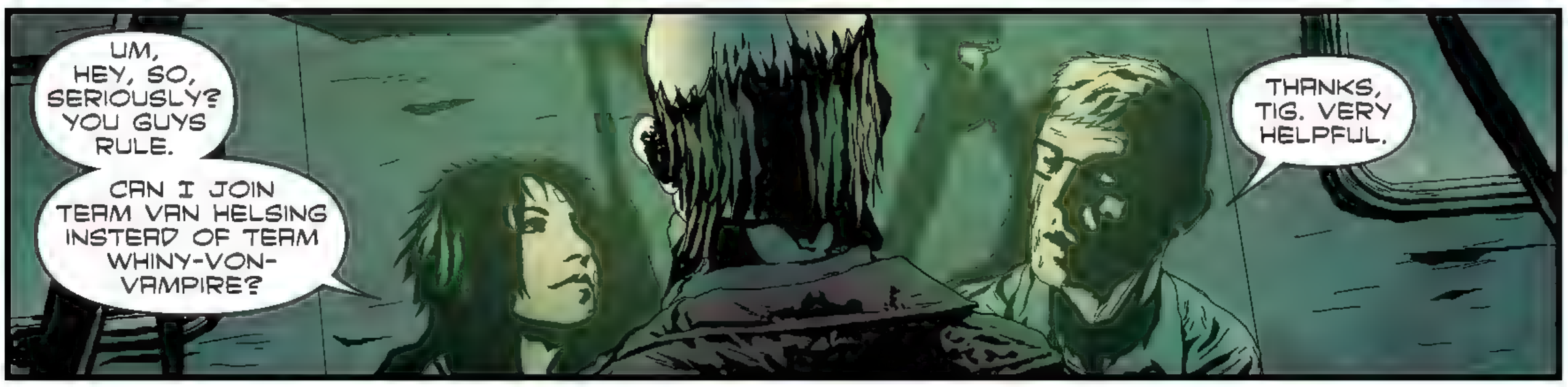
SIR...



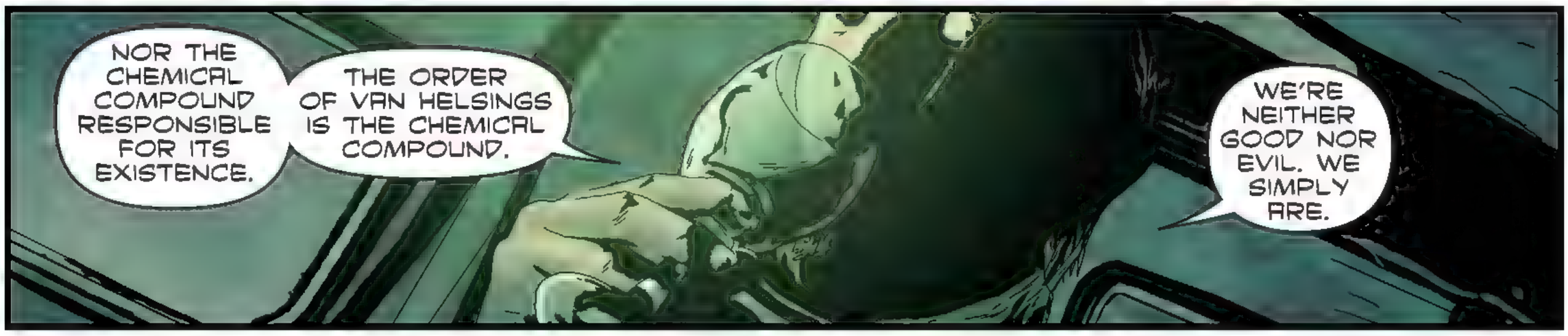
THANK YOU.
YOU KNOW, PROFESSOR, I BELIEVE I HAVE A METAPHOR YOU MAY UNDERSTAND.


NAPALM.
HISTORY WILL TELL YOU THAT IT WAS INVENTED BY SOME SCIENTIST AT HARVARD AS A JELLIED GASOLINE.
THAT IT WAS FIRST USED IN THE FORTIES...
HISTORY, OF COURSE, IS A DIRTY, LYING WHORE.

YOUR PEOPLE INVENTED NAPALM.
STICKY FIRE. SMART.
IT MIGHT NOT KILL ALL VAMPIRES, BUT IT'LL HURT THEM LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO DO IT YOURSELF.


UM, HEY, SO, SERIOUSLY? YOU GUYS RULE.
CAN I JOIN TEAM VAN HELSING INSTEAD OF TEAM WHINY-VON-VAMPIRE?
THANKS, TIG. VERY HELPFUL.

"NAPALM IS THE METAPHOR FOR US. IT'S PERSISTENT, IT CAN'T BE SHAKEN, AND IT BURNS UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT. EVEN THE DUST IS DESTROYED.
"WHILE DUMPING IT ON SMALL CHILDREN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS EVIL, THAT DOESN'T MAKE THE SUBSTANCE ITSELF EVIL."


NOR THE CHEMICAL COMPOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS EXISTENCE.
THE ORDER OF VAN HELSINGS IS THE CHEMICAL COMPOUND.
WE'RE NEITHER GOOD NOR EVIL. WE SIMPLY ARE.

"MY POINT, PROFESSOR, IS THAT WE OFTEN GET CAUGHT UP IN LABELS.

"TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR WORLD'S CURRENT 'PHENOMENA.'

"THEY CALL THESE CAPED MORONS 'SUPERHEROES.'

"AS THOUGH THEIR MORAL CODE SOMEHOW SUPERSEDES THAT OF NOT JUST REGULAR PEOPLE, BUT GENUINE HEROES.

"THEY MOVE THROUGH SOCIETY WITH IMPUNITY, DOING WHAT THEY WANT, HOW THEY WANT--"

"WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?"

"I'M SAYING WHAT EVERY GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD IS SAYING, WHAT EVERY SANE PERSON IN EVERY TOWN ACROSS THE PLANET IS THINKING.

"ONCE WE'VE CLEANSED THE WORLD OF VAMPIRES, WE MOVE ON TO THE ***SUPERS.***

"ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE THAT'S WISHFUL THINKING."

WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT. WE'VE WORK TO DO. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO... WHAT? FIGHT THEM?

"NO, OF COURSE NOT.

WE'RE GOING TO BURN THEM ALIVE, AND *THEN* WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THEM."

IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP, LOVE.

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOUR POWER WILL LAST, ANDREW?

YOU WERE ***NEVER*** MEANT TO HAVE THIS MUCH.

AND I'LL KEEP FIGHTING YOU WITH EVERY OUNCE OF MY BEING UNTIL I SET YOU RIGHT OR LEAVE YOU DEAD.

"UH, ANDREW?"

"WHAT'S THAT SOUND?"

"LOOK UP."

DIE
DIE

D NAPALM FIRE HOAH!!

OH CRAP.

FFFF

DAMMIT.

ERIF YATS KCAB!

WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING US?

I WAS TRYING TO BROKER PEACE, NOT WIPE US ALL OUT.

I MISJUDGED THE VAN HELSINGS.

YOU SENT FOR THE VAN HELSINGS?

BEGIN PHASE TWO! PHASE TWO, GO!

MAY ANUBIS PROTECT YOU.

DEATH TO THE HELLSPAWN.

DEATH TO THE HELLSPAWN.

WE HAVE INCOMING.

THERE WILL BE NO KILLING.

THE HELL THERE *WON'T* BE.

STAY HERE. I'LL DEAL WITH THIS.

WE DO NOT WANT WAR. IF YOU DO NOT ATTACK US, WE WILL NOT ATTACK BA--

GAH!

THWOK

DEATH TO THE HELLSPAWN!

"YOUR MEN WILL BE MASSACRED."

"OH, NO, YOUR 'FRIEND' WILL 'PROTECT THEM.'

"HE'S A 'HERO.' REMEMBER?"

"YOU'RE INVADING HIS TERRITORY, OF COURSE HE'S GOING TO FIGHT BACK--"

"THAT'S THE HOPE, PROFESSOR.

"NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME..."

--FOR YEARS WE'VE FOUGHT FIRE WITH FIRE.

AND IT NEVER WORKED.

SO, NOW WE TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

WE FIGHT FIRE WITH A NUCLEAR WARHEAD.

AND THANKS TO YOUR "PAL," WE ESTIMATE NEARLY SIXTY PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S VAMPIRE POPULATION IS GATHERED HERE.

THAT'S THE MOST EVER SLAIN BY ONE PLATOON OF VAN HELSINGS.

I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T GET TO TALK MORE.

I QUITE ENJOYED IT.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE WON'T BE TALKING AGAIN ANY TIME SOON.

DEATH TO THE HELLSPAWN.

UH, SO... ALL THAT TIME, DID YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A PLAN, OR...?

I WAS HOPING TO REASON WITH HIM.

WELL, THAT WORKED GREAT.

MAY ANUBIS PROTECT US ALL.

THOSE ARE THE PILOTS, AREN'T THEY?

DEATH TO THE HELLSPAWN!

SURE LOOKS LIKE IT.

I HATE YOU SO, SO, SO MUCH.

HUH, THESE GUYS AREN'T SO BAD AT ALL.

I'VE KILLED EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS WHO PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT THAN THIS.

WHAT DID I DO...

BABY, IT'S OKAY. THIS IS WHAT WE ARE.

THIS IS WHAT *YOU* ARE.

MARY...

WE'RE IN TROUBLE...

SHHH.

I KNOW.

NO. SERIOUSLY...

"...THE DEAD ONES ARE GETTING BACK UP."

DEATH TO THE HELLSPAWN!

THE DROWNING MAN

JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV
writer

ANDREA SORRENTINO
artist

cover art by CLAYTON CRAIN

THIS IS NOT GOING WELL FOR ME

YOU'D THINK AFTER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, I'D REALIZE THAT *PLANNING* HAS NEVER BEEN MY STRONG SUIT

AFTER BEING KILLED, GOING ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IN THE AFTERLIFE, AND BEING REINCARNATED WITH MAGICAL POWERS DRAINED FROM THE JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK, I HAD A GREAT IDEA

LET'S GET ALL OF THE VAMPIRES IN THE WORLD--

--OR Y'KNOW, MOST OF THEM--

--IN ONE PLACE, AND LET ME BE THEIR *MESSIAH*. WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

I OVER-REACHED

WHICH, AGAIN, RECURRENT PROBLEM FOR ME

I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE IT ALL

TO BE FAIR, I DIDN'T EXPECT THE CULT OF *VAMPIRE KILLERS* I'D HOPED TO NEGOTIATE WITH TO *SUICIDE-BOMB* US--

--AND THEN TO *RISE FROM THE DEAD* AS *ZOMBIES*.

The Drowning Man

TECHNICALLY, I THINK THEY'RE ACTUALLY MUMMIES.

NOT ZOMBIES.

IN CASE THAT MATTERS.

KILL THEM.

AGAIN.

UNTIL THEY DON'T GET UP ANYMORE.

MY NAME IS ANDREW BENNETT, AND I THINK I JUST DOOMED *TWO* SPECIES TO EXTINCTION.

UNLESS...

THE NECKLACES... EGYPTIAN... DAMMIT.

OR, Y'KNOW, MAYBE IT'LL WORK OUT.

SMASH THEIR NECKLACES!

OOOH. I GET IT.

PULL OFF THE MAGIC HOODAD--

--DOWN HE GOES.

PRETTY SWEET.

THAT'S MARY. SHE'S THE LOVE OF MY LIFE AND A CONSTANT THORN IN MY SIDE

LET'S TRY AN EXPERIMENT...

GAAAAAH!

HMM. YOU SURE ALL THE POWER RESTS IN THE NECKLACES?

'CAUSE THEY'RE PRETTY GLOWY ALL OVER.

ALSO, SHE'S EXTREMELY EVIL EVEN FOR A VAMPIRE

SSLICH

WELL, HOW COULD IT GET ANY WORSE, RIGHT?

UH, GUYS, BITING THEM DOES *NOT* SEEM LIKE A GREAT IDEA--

GRRAAAAAH!

ANDREW! THINGS JUST GOT WORSE!

OVERHEAD.

I...I'M SORRY FOR ALL OF THIS, TIG.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO GET A KID INVOLVED--

YEAH, WELL...

I'M NOT A KID, PROFESSOR TROUGHTON...

AND WE'RE NOT DEAD YET.

ALL RIGHT, NOW...YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TO FLY A PLANE?

NO.

ME NEITHER. NO BETTER TIME TO LEARN, THOUGH, RIGHT?

OH, CRAP!

WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING'S GONE AS PLANNED.

NOT IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID...

VAN HELSING. *YOU* DID THIS.

YOU'RE THEIR *LEADER.*

ANDREW BENNETT.

I LOOK FORWARD TO MY DEATH ONLY *SLIGHTLY* LESS THAN I LOOK FORWARD TO YOURS.

UGH. I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO EXPECT YOU TO DO YOUR JOB.

WHAT JOB IS THAT, ANDREW? TO WIPE OUT YOUR OWN KIND?

TO *CONTAIN* THEM. TWO ARMIES LOCKED IN AN ETERNAL STANDOFF.

YEAH?

"HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT?"

DAMMIT, TIG, COME AND UNTIE ME!

LITTLE BUSY, PROFESSOR.

UNTIE ME!

AUTOPILOT

OKAY, LET'S HOPE THIS WORKS.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY AREN'T YOU FLYING THE PLANE?

DUDE, MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

AUTOPILOT'S FLYING.

WE'RE COOL.

UH, I DON'T THINK AUTOPILOT WORKS LIKE THAT--

KENCH

KRAK

THOOM

SSSSSSSKREEEEEEEEEEEE

I THINK YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT AUTOPILOT.

Y'THINK?

WHAT'S THAT BEEPING?

DUNNO...

IT'S COMING FROM BACK HERE--

PROFESSOR... RUN. RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

WHAT?

RUN! NOW!

BEEP.BEEP.BEEP.BEEP.BEEP.BEEP.BEEEEEE

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

YOUR FRIENDS BLOWING UP, I'D IMAGINE.

HA!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

THE GIRL AND THE PROFESSOR.

I JUST BLEW THEM UP.

...

LET'S SEE HOW MUCH I CAN HURT YOU BEFORE YOU TURN INTO A ZOMBIE.

EESH. THIS IS *REALLY* NOT GOING WELL...

RRRR

RRREINFORCEMENTS.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO ME, VAMPIRE.

THERE'S *PLENTY* I CAN DO.

GRAAH!

NOW I GET TO DO IT *AGAIN.*

REINFORCEMENTS.

MY EYES ARE CLEAR, MY HEART IS FULL, NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL CHANGE THAT, MONSTER.

IS THAT WHAT I SOUND LIKE?

ANDREW!

STOP. THIS ISN'T YOU.

YOU'RE WRONG, JOHN. THIS HAS *ALWAYS* BEEN ME.

THIS IS WHAT I *HIDE*, THIS IS WHAT I KEEP OUT OF *SIGHT.*

I KNOW. BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS.

REINFORCEMENTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, JOHN.

IT'S OKAY, OLD FRIEND. WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

UH, ANDREW... ARE THERE ZOMBIES NOW?

THEY'RE TECHNICALLY MUMMIES. BUT, YES.

ANDREW--

I GOT IT!

WHAT?

DUDE TRIED TO BLOW ME UP.

REINFORCEMENTS.

REINFORCEMENTS.

OH GREAT, *YOU* TWO ARE ALIVE. THESE VAN HELSING LOSERS CAN'T DO *ANYTHING* RIGHT.

NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO, MARY.

SO, WE'VE GOT A BUNCH OF THE CHARMS.

UH, UNFORTUNATELY, SOME OF OURS, UM...

GOT HUNGRY.

I DON'T--

THEY FED ON THE VAN HELSINGS AND GOT INFECTED WITH THE CURSE. AND THE WHOLE 'KILL VAMPIRES' THING.

SO...

ZOMBIE VAMPIRE VAMPIRE HUNTERS?

SO, TO BE CLEAR, I CAN KILL *EVERYONE* THIS TIME, RIGHT?

NOBODY'S GOING TO UNLEASH AN EVIL VAMPIRE DEMON GUY?

REINFORCEMENTS.

OKAY. TIG, JOHN, GRAB THE CHARMS, AS MANY AS YOU CAN.

MARY'LL MAKE WITH THE KILLING.

SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO--

KILL THE VAMPIRES, YES.

GET ON BOARD, OR GET YOUR HEAD CUT OFF, DARLING.

WELL, AS LONG AS I HAVE A CHOICE.

LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU GUYS SOME COVER...

t'noD evom.

REINFORCEMENTS.

YOU *FROZE* THEM...

THIS FEELS LIKE CHEATING.

YES, CHEATING THAT'S... NEARLY KILLING ME...

TAKE THE BREAKS YOU CAN GET, DEAR...

"...I HAVE A FEELING THE WORST IS ABOUT TO COME."

REINFORCEMENTS!

DISINTEGRATION

JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV
writer

ANDREA SORRENTINO
artist

cover art by CLAYTON CRAIN

THE HIGH DESERT OF UTAH.

OH, JACK HAWKSMOOR, THE GLORIOUS PLACES YOU TELEPORT US INTO.

SO A WHOLE TOWN JUST DISAPPEARS--

AND I CAN FEEL IT, YEAH. IT'S... EMPTY... COLD.

WHAT'S WEIRD IS, I FEEL A WHOLE *OTHER* CITY...OVER THERE.

APOLLO, MIND TAKING A LOOK?

HELL OF A VIEW, RIGHT?

HUH?

NOTHING.

UH, MIDNIGHTER? JACK...? I FOUND YOUR TOWN.

A FEW MILES AWAY.

DISINTEGRATION

HAVING YOUR HEAD CUT OFF AND THEN GETTING REINCARNATED WITH THE POWERS OF THE MOST POWERFUL MAGICIANS IN THE WORLD HAS A WAY OF TAKING THE EDGE OFF THINGS.

INCLUDING BECOMING THE VAMPIRE MESSIAH.

WHICH IS PROVING HARDER THAN EXPECTED.

I'M *ANDREW BENNETT*, SUPER VAMPIRE AND MORON.

WE HAVE MORE INFECTED ON THE WAY! MOVE FASTER!

WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN, SPARKLES!

MY ASSOCIATES, TIG "STAKE-HAPPY" RAFELSON--

LESS TALKING, MORE KILLING, FOLKS!

--AND PROFESSOR JOHN TROUGHTON-- BOTH DESERVE FAR BETTER THAN WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THEM.

WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY ZOMBIFIED VERSIONS OF THE VAN HELSING VAMPIRE-KILLING CULT.

WHO'VE INFECTED SOME OF MY VAMPIRIC FOLLOWERS, TURNING THEM INTO ZOMBIE VAMPIRE VAMPIRE-HUNTERS.

ON THE UPSIDE, MY GIRLFRIEND/ARCH-ENEMY, MARY, STOPPED TRYING TO KILL ME TEMPORARILY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP THIS FREEZING SPELL UP...

I'M NOT GREAT AT MAGIC, IT TURNS OUT.

THERE'S MORE OF THEM!!!

KILL VAMPIRES!
DEATH TO THE PLAGUE!
POT? KETTLE. HOW YA DOING.
THIS IS NOT *NOT* FUN.
MARY, MOVE FASTER!
KILL VAMPIRES!
STOP BACK-SEAT MURDERING, ANDREW! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
ALTHOUGH, I'M CLEARLY NOT DOING A GOOD JOB OF IT...
CRAP.
KILL VAMPIRES!
DEATH TO THE INFECTION!
DIE! DIE! DIE! DIE!
GRRRAAAAAH!

UM. THAT NAKED GIRL JUST TURNED TO MIST.

ENGINEER, WHAT DO OUR STORMWATCH FILES HAVE ON VAMPIRES?

THE EYE OF THE STORM.

STORMWATCH SATELLITE HQ, IN EARTH ORBIT.

YOU'RE LOOKING AT *ANDREW BENNETT* AND *MARY SEWARD.* UNTIL RECENTLY, HE WAS A VAMPIRE HUNTER, REFERRED TO IN OUR SYSTEM AS THE DEMON'S LOCK.

HE APPEARS TO HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH MARY SEWARD, HIS FORMER LOVER, AND--

OH MY.

QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRES. SOMEBODY LIKES ANNE RICE A BIT TOO MUCH.

AND THE THINGS ATTACKING THEM?

WE HAD REPORTS THAT THE CULT OF VAN HELSING WERE EN ROUTE. BUT THEY, TRADITIONALLY, AREN'T, UH...ZOMBIES.

YOU BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES?

THE THINGS I'VE SEEN, THERE'S NOT MUCH I DON'T BELIEVE IN.

YOU'RE GETTING OFF ON THIS, AREN'T YOU?

I GET TO KILL DRACULA. C'MON, THAT'S AWESOME.

SO...WE KILL THEM ALL?

HOORAY FOR STORMWATCH!

YOUR SARCASM IS NOTED.

HAWKSMOOR OUT.

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH. THE KNICKS AND LAKERS STARTS IN AN HOUR...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

BASKETBALL.

IN THAT CASE, WE BETTER GET MURDERING.

I'D HATE FOR YOU TO MISS OUT!

SIGH.

I AM NOT A VAMPIRE! STOP TRYING TO KILL ME!

THEY'RE TRYING TO "CONVERT" YOU, TIG.

ANDREW! YOUR MAGIC'S BREAKING--

KA-PACK

OH GOD...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW...

THEY AREN'T DUST...SUNLIGHT DOESN'T KILL THEM OUTRIGHT.

WELL, KEEP TRYING, WE'LL GET IT RIGHT EVENTUALLY.

KILL THE LEADER, AND THE REST CRUMBLE.

JUST BECAUSE IT WORKS IN TEEN ROMANCE BOOKS--

TRUST ME...

KILL THE ONE WITH THE WHITE STRIPE IN HIS HAIR!

MIGHT AS WELL START SOMEWHERE.

HEY! THAT HURTS!

I THINK I FOUND A WAY TO KILL THEM!

I CAN JUST LET THEM EAT ME.

GET THEIR LEADER!

STREAKY HAIR, GOT IT.

AND I'M FINE, THANKS FOR ASKING.

APPARENTLY I'M VAMPIRE-PROOF. THE THINGS YOU LEARN.

MY POWER'S DEPLETED... GIVE ME A COUPLE OF--

POWER'S DEPLETED? SWEET.

GAH!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

KILL THE HEAD VAMPIRE AND THE REST DIE, TOO.

DUDE, SERIOUSLY? *"LOST BOYS"* RULES?

WHAT'S YOUR POINT? FIVE MINUTES AGO, I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING LIKE YOU *EXISTED.*

AND FIVE MINUTES FROM NOW, I'LL BE *RIGHT.*

NOW THAT WE'VE HAD A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF, CAN I GET BACK TO BEING THE ONLY PERSON HERE THAT'S ACTUALLY TRYING TO ***STOP*** THE ZOMBIES?

...OH. ***THAT'S*** WHAT'S GOING ON.

SO YOU'RE ***NOT*** THEIR LEADER?

WELL, I WAS...

LOOK, JUST DON'T RUB IT IN.

WHAT THE HELL IS APOLLO DOING?

I'M GOING TO GUESS WE ASSUMED THE GOOD GUY WAS THE BAD GUY, AND HE DECIDED TO SKIP OVER THE POINTLESS FIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENED?

TURNS OUT HE'S THE GOOD GUY, SO WE SKIPPED OVER THE--

YEAH, GOT IT, OKAY. HOW DO WE STOP THESE THINGS?

UH, SUPER-PEOPLE, *HELP!*

DUDE, WE'RE DOING FINE WITHOUT--

AAAH! SON OF A--

KILL THE VAMPIRES.

MUST.

DESTROY.

THE INFECTION.

DEATH TO ANDREW BENNETT!

DAMN IT, TIG, NOT YOU, TOO--

DEATH TO THE INFECTION!

SIGH.

OKAY, THIS NEEDS TO END. *NOW.*

TIG-- *BACK OFF.*

MARY? WHERE ARE YOU?

LITTLE *BUSY--*

MOVE IT, MARY. WE NEED HIGHER GROUND!

OFF WE GO, KIDS.

WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW.

ALL RIGHT, SUPER PEOPLE. WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'RE THE *GOOD* GUYS.

"THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW."

WE WATCH FROM THE SHADOWS, SOLVING PROBLEMS JUST LIKE YOU--

WAIT A SECOND. I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE. YOU'RE *STORMWATCH.*

YOU PEOPLE TRIED TO *KILL* ME A CENTURY AGO.

DON'T LOOK AT ME, I JUST JOINED UP.

FOR A *SECRET* ORGANIZATION, THESE GUYS KIND OF SUCK AT THEIR JOBS.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERTISE IN...THIS?

SORRY. THEY BROUGHT *BOTH* THE NEW GUYS.

IF IT HELPS, WE BOTH PUNCH REALLY, REALLY HARD.

SO, JUST MORE FODDER FOR THE ZOMBIES, THEN.

ENOUGH.

WE'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO STOP THEM...

OUR FILES REFER TO YOU AS THE DEMON'S LOCK.

ANY IDEA WHY?

I WAS USED AS A MAGICAL SEAL FOR AN ANCIENT PRIMORDIAL PSYCHOPATH.

AND THEN KILLED.

AND THEN CAME BACK ALL MAGICAL MESSIAH-Y.

IT'S COMPLICATED.

SO, IF YOU'VE BEEN A TRAP FOR DARK MAGIC BEFORE...

MAYBE I CAN DO IT AGAIN...

NO, THIS IS A ***VERY*** BAD IDEA.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND THIS, MARY, BUT IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE I'M A ***CHILD.*** I UNDERSTAND RIGHT AND WRONG.

I JUST DON'T ***CARE.***

I JUST GOT YOU BACK, AND I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE YOU AGAIN.

COME....

TO...

ME!!!

ANDREW!

MY WINGS... WHY WON'T THEY...

OH GOD... NO...

IT *WORKED.*

I'M *HUMAN.*

ANDREW... *CURED* ME.

"HE CURED *ALL* OF US."

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?

ANDREW?

THANK YOU, TIG.

YOU'LL DO NICELY.

UH...FOR WHAT?

MY FIRST CHILD, OF COURSE.

AAAAAAAAHH!!!

I, VAMPIRE

VAN HELSING CHARACTER SKETCH BY ANDREA SORRENTINO

I, VAMPIRE
CAIN CHARACTER SKETCH BY RYAN SOOK

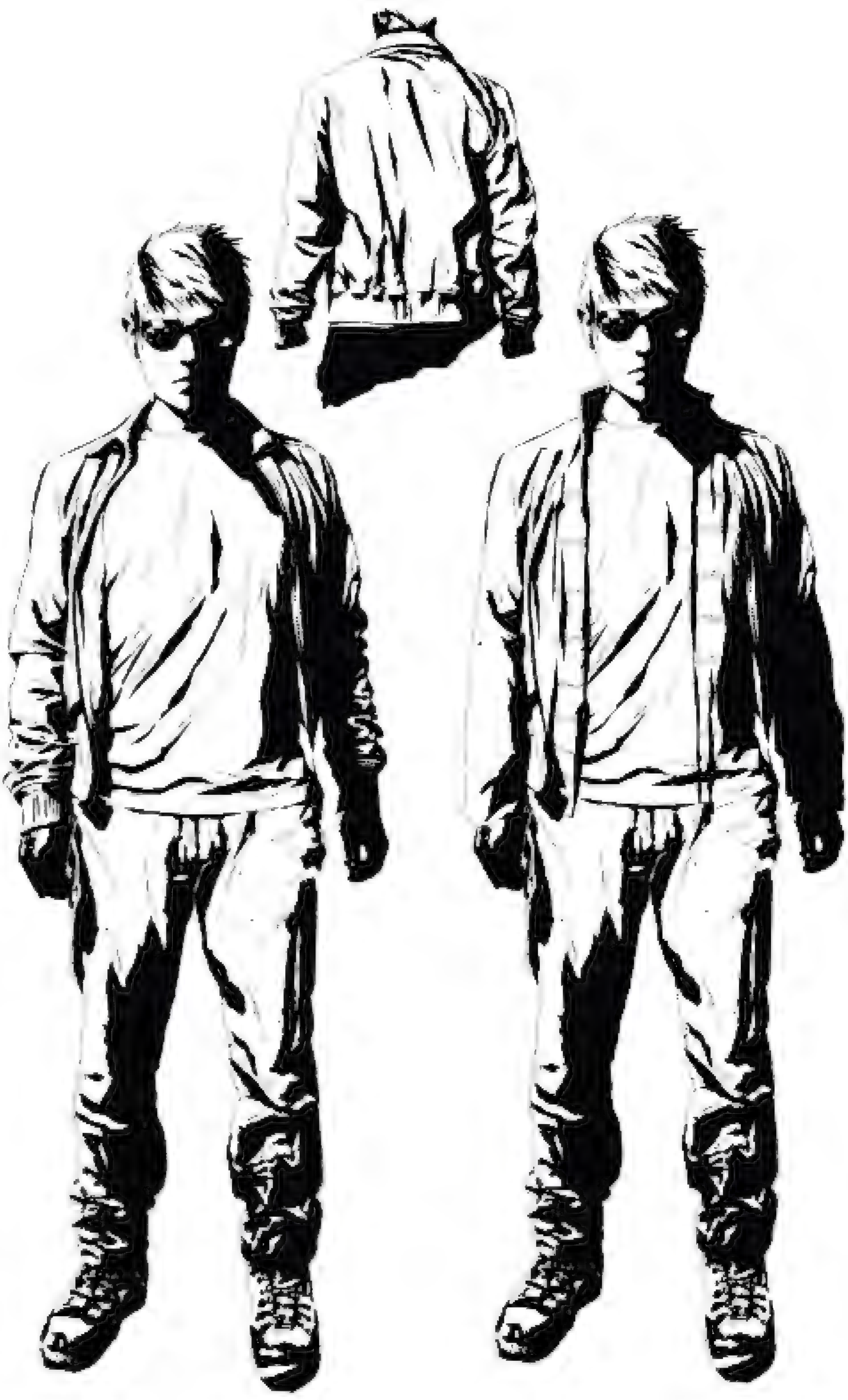
Before the "Rise of the Vampires" crossover, JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK cover artist Ryan Sook took a pass at a more monstrous, imposing version of Cain, the first vampire. Ultimately, the character developed in a direction that better suited series artist Andrea Sorrentino's more romantic (but sinister) take.

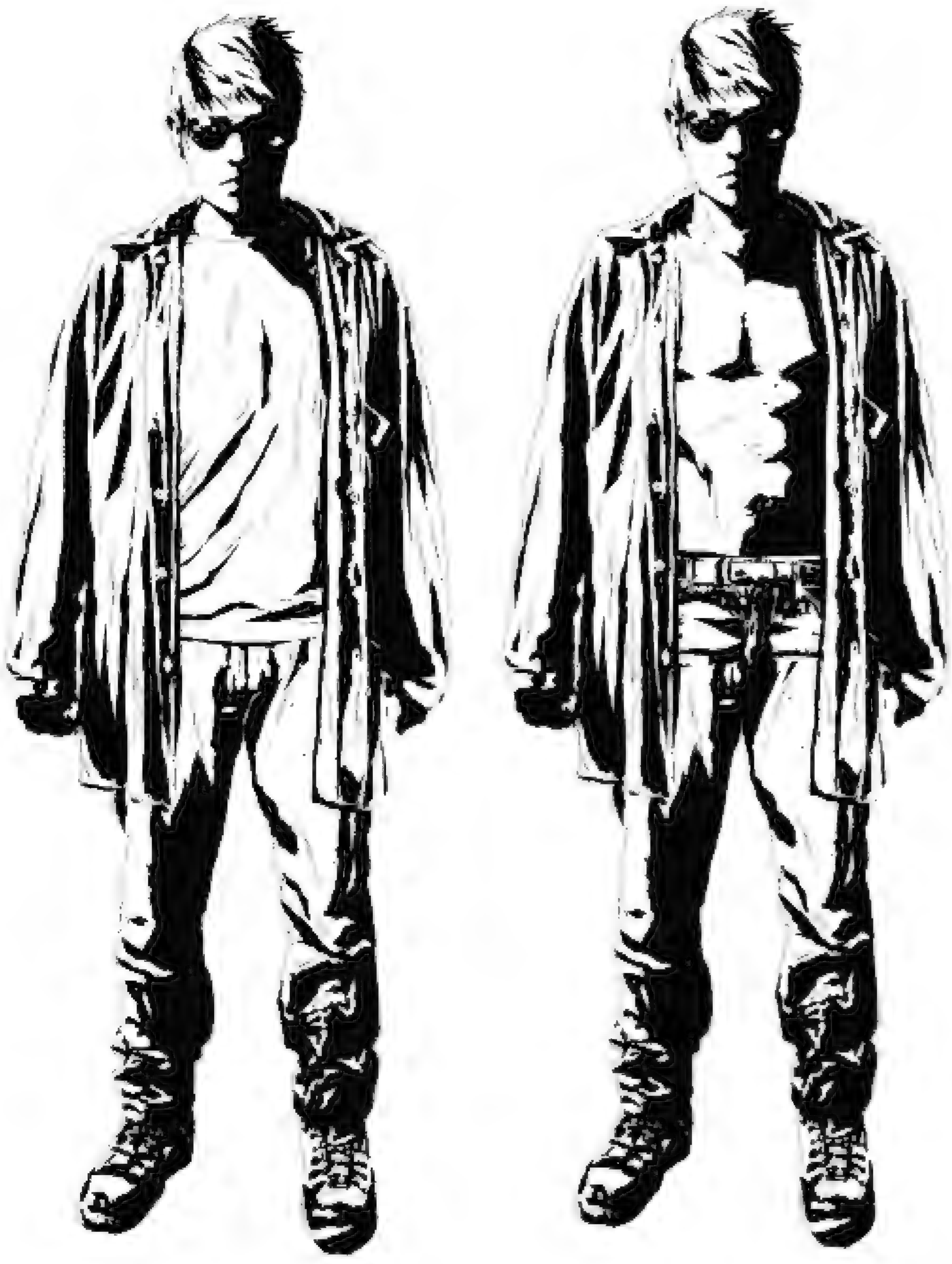
CAIN
A 'LIVING' BLACK SHADOW HANGS OVER HIM. BECOMING HIS GARMENT AT HIS WAIST.
THE CLOSER WE GET WE SEE THAT THE MARKS ON HIS FACE ARE OPEN FESTERING WOUNDS
BATLIKE WINGS RUN FROM WRIST TO HIP. THIN ELASTIC SKIN.
BIG SPINY KNOTS OF THE SPINE VISIBLE FROM DOWN HIS BACK
CURVY 'LIGHTNING' LIKE SCARS ON FOREARMS, SHOULDERS, AND FACE.
HIS GARMENT IS LIKE A BLACK SKIRT WITH MORE OF THE 'LIGHTNING' SHAPES FLOWING DOWN. WE DON'T SEE HIS LEGS OR FEET. IF WE DO, THEY ARE BLACK, IN SHADOW.

I, VAMPIRE
CAIN CHARACTER SKETCH BY ANDREA SORRENTINO

I, VAMPIRE
CAIN
wings: torn wings. He can still fly of course.
tattoo: should recall some "nerves" in opposite to Mary's "sensual" ones and Andrew's "squared" ones.
his cape is similar to the one I gave to Mary. he can change its shape at will, and so on. He has black pants under it.

I, VAMPIRE
ANDREW BENNETT CHARACTER SKETCHES BY ANDREA SORRENTINO





I, VAMPIRE

I, VAMPIRE #7 COVER SKETCHES BY ANDREA SORRENTINO

5

6

"The crossover here is gruesome fun." — *CRAVEONLINE*

"Consistently good work from both Fialkov and Sorrentino has made [I, VAMPIRE] one of the stronger titles of The New 52."

— *COMIC BOOK RESOURCES*

AGAINST AN ANCIENT EVIL

Andrew Bennett, a vampire who has dedicated his existence to eradicating his own kind, is off the board. In his absence, bloodsuckers across the world have gone berserk, attacking anyone and everyone with a pulse, as Cain, the grand sire of all his brethren, enacts his bloody rise in Gotham City.

Fearing that her apocalyptic vision of the future has come to pass, Madame Xanadu mobilizes her Justice League Dark team to retrieve Andrew from the realm of the dead and stop the rise of the vampires. But everything the JL Dark members know about how to slay a vampire is useless, for the world has changed...

I, VAMPIRE: RISE OF THE VAMPIRES collects issues #7-12 and JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK issues #7-8 and features the vivid, horror-filled world of writer JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV (*Echoes*) and artist ANDREA SORRENTINO (GREEN ARROW).

dccomics.com

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"